

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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DRAFTED BY USOAS:JJJOVA:MJ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165350

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CU, VE

SUBJ: COPEI ALLEGATION THAT CUBAN EXILES FUNDING ACTION

DEMOCRATICA

REF: CARACAS 7155

1. DR. PEDRO CONTRERAS, CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE OAS EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE COUNCIL AND HIMSELF A COPEI STALWART, TODAY TOLD JOVA AT LUNCH (CONTRERAS' INVITATION) THAT HIS PARTY WAS CONCERNED AT FUNDING OF ACTION DEMOCRATICA FROM CUBAN EXILE GROUPS BASED IN U.S. JOVA SAID THAT HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THIS, HE DOUBTED IT WAS TRUE BUT SUGGESTED THAT IF GOV CONCERNED IT MIGHT TAKE THIS UP WITH DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIRECTLY. CONTRERAS SAID THIS WOULD REQUIRE INVOLVEMENT OF VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR AND ELEVATE MATTER TO GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL-- GIVING FACTS, FIGURES, ETC. FOR THIS REASON HIS PARTY FELT IT WAS MORE DISCREET AND LESS DISTURBING OF RELATIONS IF MESSAGE GIVEN INFORMALLY. CONTRERAS SAID THAT CUBAN EXILES WERE CONCERNED AT INCREASING SIGNS OF RAPPROCHEMENT ON THE PART OF GOV. HE SAID THAT COPEI TRIED TO REASSURE THE CARACAS-BASED EXILES THAT IMPENDING RAPPROACHEMENT WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THEM BUT WAS "MERELY RECOGNITION OF
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A FACT OF LIFE." JOVA TOLD HIM THAT WHILE NEITHER

ADMITTING NOR CONDONING POSSIBLE CUBAN EXILE INTERVENTION
IN VENEZUELAN POLITICAL AFFAIRS, HE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND
THAT EMOTIONS REGARDING RECOGNITION OF CASTRO GOVERNMENT

RUN VERY HIGH AMONG CUBAN EXILES AND THAT THIS WAS ALSO A
FACT OF LIFE WHICH GOV MIGHT WISH TO KEEP UNDER CONSIDERA-
TION. CONTRERAS SAID HE RECOGNIZED THIS BUT AT A TIME
WHEN CHINESE AND RUSSIAN PEOPLES WERE BENEFITTING FROM
SALES OF U.S. GRAINS GOV DID NOT THINK IT JUST FOR CUBAN
PEOPLE TO BE DEPRIVED OF BENEFITS OF TRADE MERELY BECAUSE
THEY WERE SADDLED WITH EMOTIONALLY IMBALANCED CASTRO.

2. CONTRERAS SAID HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE MORE
SPECIFIC FIGURES TO BACK UP HIS ALLEGATION. IN THE
MEANTIME, HE SAID IT WAS USEFUL THAT U.S. KNOW OF CONCERN
IN VENEZUELA OVER ALLEGED ACTIVITIES OF CUBAN EXILES
RESIDENT IN THE UNITED STATES. ROGERS

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